

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-50 are in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 21, 24, 41, and 44 are independent. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 51-76 are canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 15-17, 19-22, 24, 28-30, 35-37, 39-42, 44, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 58, 60-65, 67, 69-73, and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (European Patent No. 930747). Claims 5-7, 12-14, 18, 25-27, 32-34, 38, 45-47, 52, 55-57, 59, 68, and 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Kawakami. Claims 3, 23, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Fujimori. Claims 66 and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito.

However, the present invention inquires whether a connected apparatus has a display monitor and assigns some of the transmission lines to the first connection mode based on

whether a default channel for a monitor apparatus is being used or occupied by another apparatus. To reflect these features, the present independent claims have been amended to recite:

wherein the plurality of electronic apparatus connected to said digital bus are classified into the first and second groups by inquiring whether each electronic apparatus connected to said digital bus includes a monitor apparatus to display a supplied signal; and

assigning some of said plurality of transmission lines to said first connection mode based on the status of whether a default channel for an electronic apparatus having said monitor apparatus is used or occupied by another apparatus and the remaining transmission lines to the second connection mode. (Claim 1; all other independent claims contain similar limitations)

These added limitations correspond to steps SS101 and SS106 in Figure 20 and are supported in the specification at pages 112 to 124.

As noted by the Examiner, Saito discloses the inherent feature of an IEEE-1934 bus system, that transmission lines may be set to a first connection mode (i.e. broadcast mode) or a second connection mode (i.e. point-to-point mode). The Examiner asserts that setting transmission lines to the first or second mode constitutes pre-selecting them into groups. However, Saito does not disclose how the system determines which connection mode is selected for each transmission line. Hence, Saito fails to disclose “classif[ying] into the first and second groups by inquiring whether each electronic apparatus connected to said digital bus includes a monitor apparatus” as recited in the present claims. Likewise, Saito fails to disclose “assigning some of said plurality of transmission lines to said first connection mode based on the status of whether a default channel for an electronic apparatus having said monitor apparatus is used or occupied by another apparatus” as required by the present claims. Similarly, neither Kawakami nor Fujimori meets either of these limitations. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Saito,

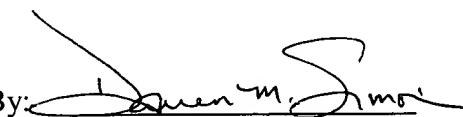
Kawakami, and Fujimori fail to anticipate and/or obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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